

# Atlantic Richfield Company

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SUPERFUND DIV.  
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

July 11, 2012

## SENT VIA E-MAIL

Donald H. Williams  
Acting Associate Director  
Superfund Technical and Enforcement Branch  
U.S. EPA, Region 6  
1445 Ross Avenue  
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733  
Williams.Donald@epamail.epa.gov

Re: Access to Jackpile-Paguate Uranium Mine Superfund Site

Dear Mr. Williams:

Thank you for bringing your concerns about Atlantic Richfield Company (AR) communications with the Pueblo of Laguna (Pueblo) to my attention. AR requested access to the Jackpile-Paguate Mine to gather information during the development of its comments on the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposal to list the site on the National Priorities List (NPL).

AR has not been involved with the site since 1986, when the leases for the mine were terminated, and responsibility for the reclamation of the site was transferred to the United States and the Pueblo. EPA's proposal to list the site on the NPL calls into question whether the United States and the Pueblo fulfilled their respective duties to reclaim the site in compliance with federal and state laws, and as required under the 1986 lease termination agreement. As such, the purpose of the site visit was for the AR team, including technical representatives with expertise in mine reclamation, to view and better understand the site location, the major site features such as the Rio Paquate and Rio Maquino drainages, and the status of the joint reclamation effort by the United States and the Pueblo. Ultimately, access was not granted, and AR respected the Pueblo's decision.

AR's status as a past mine lessee was clear in the attached letter requesting a site visit, and in other communications between AR and the Pueblo. At no time did AR, its consultants or attorneys inform the Pueblo that they represented EPA or were "working on behalf of EPA." Participants in the requested site visit, including AR representatives and consultants, were also disclosed to the Pueblo.



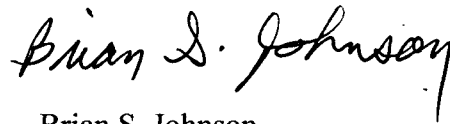
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Despite this misunderstanding, AR agrees that the Pueblo's cooperation is important to future work at the site. AR representatives will continue our efforts to contact Pueblo environmental staff and to obtain access to Pueblo lands to better understand current conditions there and how reclamation was completed. Should we be successful in establishing contact with the tribe and in obtaining access, we will inform Mr. Sanchez of any upcoming site visits that have been set up with the Pueblo.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have. My phone number is (281)-504-9093, and my email is [brian.s.johnson@bp.com](mailto:brian.s.johnson@bp.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian S. Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Brian S. Johnson

cc: Jeannie Hale, EPA